

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Declaration is objected to. Applicants' representative is in the process of obtaining a corrected or revised Declaration and will submit same as soon as these are executed by the Inventors.

The Drawings are also objected to for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5). Applicants will submit formal drawings addressing each of these corrections.

Claims 1-38 are pending in the application. Claim 39 is added by way of amendment.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of claims 20, 25, 26, 27, 29, and 32. These claims are cancelled so that issuance of the pending application may be expedited. Applicants maintain, however, that the recited subject matter is patentable over the prior art cited to date, and note for the record their intention to file a continuation application resubmitting these same claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of these claims should not be construed as Applicants' admission that the scope of the pending claims are somehow restricted or limited by the cited prior art.

Claims 1, 8-12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 25-27, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Suzuki WO 9825999 A1. Claims 2-6, 13, 15, 20-23, 28, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki WO 982599 A1, in view of Suzuki U.S. 6,258,196 B1. Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections. However, as mentioned above, for the purpose of expediting issuance of the pending application, Applicants have either withdrawn or amended the rejected claims in favor of a later-filed continuation application which will include these claims.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that the subject matter of claims 32 and 38 is allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 18, and 30 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of either claim 30 or claim 38. Therefore, these independent claims, and the claims that depend from these claims, are in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 39 is added by way of amendment. Claim 39 contains the subject matter recited in claims 30 and 38, which the Examiner has already indicated as allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, claim 39 is also in condition for allowance.

Attached hereto is a clean version of the claims pending in the application, after the current amendment. The attached is captioned **"Clean Version of Pending Claims"**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation if the Examiner believes such consultation will expedite prosecution of the application or resolve any outstanding issues.

Applicant believes no additional fees are due with this response. However, if an addition fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P01880US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw. Moreover, if any other Petition is required or if the appropriate Petition for Extension of Time does not accompany this Response, applicant hereby applies for said Petition and authorizes any fee associated therewith.

Dated: July 26, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Alberto Q. Amatong, Jr.

Registration No.: 41,580

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

1301 McKinney, Suite 5100

Houston, Texas 77010-3095

(713) 651-5151

(713) 651-5246 (Fax)

Attorneys for Applicant